IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1.   (Withdrawn) A method for managing access to forecast data, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

identifying, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customers associated with a particular user, wherein the step of identifying includes selecting a set of one or more customer nodes associated with the user from a plurality of customer nodes in a customer data hierarchy;

selecting a set of one or more products from a plurality of products; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products for each customer from the set of one or more customers.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1 , wherein the forecast data is presented to the particular user based upon a set of formatting attributes associated with the set of one or more customer nodes.

4.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more customer nodes from the plurality of customer nodes in the customer data hierarchy includes traversing the customer data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

5.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the step of traversing the customer data hierarchy to the first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node associated with the user.

6.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more products from the plurality of products includes selecting a set of one or more product data items from a plurality of product data items in a product data hierarchy.

7.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the set of one or more product data items are selected from the plurality of product data items based upon a secondary forecasting depth.

8.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of the particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

9.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

10.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

11.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

12.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein forecast data specified by the particular user is maintained if the forecast data is later changed.

13.   (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when processed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

identifying, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customers associated with a particular user, wherein the step of identifying includes selecting a set of one or more customer nodes associated with the user from a plurality of customer nodes in a customer data hierarchy;

selecting a set of one or more products from a plurality of products; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products for each customer from the set of one or more customers.

14.   (Canceled).

15.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13 , wherein the forecast data is presented to the particular user based upon a set of formatting attributes associated with the set of one or more customer nodes.

16.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more customer nodes from the plurality of customer nodes in the customer data hierarchy includes traversing the customer data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

17.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 16, wherein the step of traversing the customer data hierarchy to the first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node associated with the user.

18.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more products from the plurality of products includes selecting a set of one or more product data items from a plurality of product data items in a product data hierarchy.

19.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 18, wherein the set of one or more product data items are selected from the plurality of product data items based upon a secondary forecasting depth.

20.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of the particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

21.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

22.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

23.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 20, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

24.   (Withdrawn) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein forecast data specified by the particular user is maintained if the forecast data is later changed.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing access to forecast data, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
        identifying, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with a particular user, wherein the step of identifying includes selecting a set of one or more product nodes from a plurality of product nodes in a product data hierarchy, wherein the product data hierarchy includes a first tier and a second tier, wherein the first tier includes one or more nodes and wherein the second tier includes one or more nodes, wherein each node in the second tier is associated with at least one node in the first tier;

selecting a set of customers from a plurality of customers; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

26.   (Canceled).

27.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25 , wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more product nodes from the plurality of product nodes in the product data hierarchy includes traversing the product data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 27, wherein the step of traversing the product data hierarchy to the first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node associated with the user.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of selecting the set of customers from the plurality of customers includes selecting a set of one or more customer data items from a plurality of customer data items in a customer data hierarchy.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 29, wherein the set of one or more customer data items are selected from the plurality of customer data items based upon a secondary forecasting depth.

31.   (Original) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the step of the particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

32.   (Original) The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

33.   (Original) The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

34.   (Original) The method as recited in Claim 31, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

35.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when processed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

       identifying, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with a particular user, wherein the step of identifying includes selecting a set of one or more product nodes from a plurality of product nodes in a product data hierarchy, wherein the product data hierarchy includes a first tier and a second tier, wherein the first tier includes one or more nodes and wherein the second tier includes one or more nodes, wherein each node in the second tier is associated with at least one node in the first tier;

       selecting a set of customers from a plurality of customers; and

       allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

36.   (Canceled).

37.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of selecting the set of one or more product nodes from the plurality of product nodes in the product data hierarchy includes traversing the product data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

38.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 37, wherein the step of traversing the product data hierarchy to the first forecasting depth is performed starting from a particular node associated with the user.

39.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of selecting the set of customers from the plurality of customers includes selecting a set of one or more customer data items from a plurality of customer data items in a customer data hierarchy.

40.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 39, wherein the set of one or more customer data items are selected from the plurality of customer data items based upon a secondary forecasting depth.

41.   (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the step of the particular user accessing forecast data includes the particular user specifying forecast data.

42.   (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit volume.

43.   (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a unit price.

44.   (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41, wherein the step of the particular user specifying forecast data includes the particular user specifying a total currency amount.

45.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for managing forecast data comprising:

a storage device containing customer hierarchy data and ~~products~~ product hierarchy data, wherein the customer hierarchy data includes a first customer tier and a customer second tier, and further wherein the product hierarchy data includes a first product tier and a second product tier, wherein the first product tier includes one or more nodes and wherein the second product tier includes one or more nodes, wherein each node in the second product tier is associated with at least one node in the first product tier; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the storage device and being configured to process the customer hierarchy data and the products hierarchy data to control access to forecast data.

46.   (Withdrawn) The apparatus as recited in Claim 45, wherein the processor is further configured to control access to forecast data by:

using the customer hierarchy to identify, from a plurality of customers, a set of one or more customer associated with a particular user;

using the products hierarchy data to select a set of one or more products from a plurality of products; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products for each customer from the set of one or more customers.

47.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[46]] 45, wherein the processor is further configured to control access to forecast data by:

using the products hierarchy to identify, from a plurality of products, a set of one or more products associated with a particular user;

using the customer hierarchy data to select a set of one or more customers from a plurality of customers; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for the set of one or more customers for each product from the set of one or more products.

48.   (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium for managing access to forecast data, the
computer-readable medium carrying:

    customer data hierarchy data;

    products data hierarchy data; and

    one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when processed by one or
more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

    identify a set of one or more customers associated with a particular user from a plurality
of customers defined by the customer data hierarchy data,

    select a set of products from a plurality of products defined by the products data
hierarchy data, and

    allow a user to access forecast data for the set of one or more products for each customer
from the set of one or more customers.

49.   (Currently Amended) A method for managing access to forecast data, the method
comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

    defining a first data hierarchy of one or more first data items organized into a first
plurality of tiers, wherein the first plurality of tiers includes a first tier and a second tier, wherein
the first tier includes one or more nodes and wherein the second tier includes one or more nodes,
wherein each node in the second tier is associated with at least one node in the first tier;

    defining a second data hierarchy of one or more second data items organized into a
second plurality of tiers, wherein the second plurality of tiers includes a third tier and a fourth
tier, wherein the third tier includes one or more nodes and wherein the fourth tier includes one or
more nodes, wherein each node in the fourth tier is associated with at least one node in the third
tier;

    selecting, from the first data hierarchy, a first set of one or more first data items
associated with a first user based on a first set of one or more nodes associated with the first user;

selecting, from a second data hierarchy, a second set of one or more second data items associated with the first user based on a second set of one or more nodes associated with the first user; and

allowing the first user to access forecast data for the second set of one or more second data items for each data item in the first set of one or more first data items.

50.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 49, wherein the first data hierarchy is a hierarchy of customers and wherein the first data hierarchy is organized by a characteristic of the customer.

51.   (Withdrawn) The method as recited in Claim 50, wherein the characteristic is one or more characteristics selected from geographic region, type of business, market share and relationship with a sales organization.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 49, wherein the first data hierarchy is a hierarchy of products and wherein the first data hierarchy is organized by a characteristic of the products.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 52, wherein the second data hierarchy is a hierarchy of customers and wherein the second data hierarchy is organized by one or more characteristics of the customer.

54.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 49, wherein the step of selecting the first set of one or more nodes from the plurality of nodes in the first data hierarchy includes traversing the first data hierarchy to a first forecasting depth.

55.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 54, wherein the step of traversing
the first data hierarchy to the first forecasting depth includes starting from a particular node
associated with the user.

56.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 49, wherein the second set of one
or more nodes is selected from the plurality of nodes in the second data hierarchy based upon a
secondary forecasting depth.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in Claim 49, wherein allowing the first
user to access forecast data for the second set of one or more second data items for each data
item in the first set of one or more first data items includes specifying forecast data to access.

58.   (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, wherein the first tier includes a product
family, and wherein the second tier includes a product line, and wherein the product line includes
zero or more product nodes.

59.   (New) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 35, wherein the first tier
includes a product family, and wherein the second tier includes a product line, and wherein the
product line includes zero or more product nodes.

60.   (New) The apparatus as recited in Claim 45, wherein the first customer tier includes a
region level, and wherein the second customer tier includes a country level that includes at least
one customer node, and wherein the first product tier includes a product family level, and
wherein the second product tier includes a line level that includes at least one product node.

61.   (New) A method for managing access to forecast data, the method comprising the
computer-implemented steps of:

identifying, from a plurality of products, one or more products associated with a particular user, wherein identifying includes selecting one or more product nodes from a plurality of product nodes arranged in a product data hierarchy, wherein the product data hierarchy includes a product family tier and a product line tier, wherein each node in the product line tier is associated with one or more nodes in the product family tier; and

allowing the particular user to access forecast data for one or more customers associated with each product from the one or more products identified.